FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Reinstatement of Druze Officers — In response to a Saudi call for Lebanon to "overlook some considerations" in order to implement the security plan, the Lebanese Army Command will invite those officers and soldiers outside its control to rejoin its ranks, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced on Beirut radio after a meeting with the Saudi ambassador. When the reinstated officers have served for a "specific period," Al-Wazzan said, "matters" affecting them will be viewed in accordance with the Army's "rules and norms."

Beirut radio said Al-Wazzan's remarks provide a solution to the dispute over the promotion of dissident officers and thereby overcome the obstacle to the security plan. However, a Druze representative in Damascus asserted that the dissidents in Hammanah barracks "will not take orders from the sectarian government until a political settlement is reached," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Meanwhile, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus and subsequently arrived in Beirut, according to Beirut radio.

Military/Security Situation — Forces of the Progressive Socialist Party repulsed a Lebanese Army attack on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat axis, killing 12 soldiers and destroying an armored car, the clandestine Voice of Truth radio reported. In the south, the Lebanese National Resistance "executed" an official of the Israeli-sponsored National Guard in An-Nabatiyah, according to KUNA. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Iranian revolution guards and their supporters have begun constructing an airport near Ba'labakk to be used for launching suicide operations. Similar airports have been established in Syria for the same purpose, the radio charged.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force carried out "warning missions" deep inside Iranian territory by overflying Tehran, Qom, Bushehr, and Khark Island, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. All the Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base after successfully completing their missions, which affirm Iraq's ability to reach any target deep inside Iran, the communique added. While confirming that one Iraqi plane overflew Tehran, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian fighters forced the intruder away. The communique said the Iraqi plane broke the sound barrier "while fleeing." TANJUG reported that a "loud explosion" was heard in Tehran 10 minutes after an air raid alert.

Kohl Visit to Israel

The FRG will demand guarantees from Saudi Arabia that West German arms will not be passed on to "other elements," a spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in remarks reported by IDF Radio during the FRG leader's visit to Israel. Nevertheless, Kohl made it plain to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that West Germany cannot renege on its arms deal with Saudi Arabia, according to officials in Kohl's entourage cited by Jerusalem television. On the other hand, Shamir's office denied that Kohl had made the comment on Saudi guarantees, the television added, while Jerusalem radio reported earlier that Kohl told Shamir the FRG has made no decision yet on the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia.

A commentary on Kohl's visit in the daily *MA'ARIV* said he was "not prepared to say anything soothing" regarding the sale of tanks and aircraft to Saudi Arabia, and the paper also sharply criticized Kohl's call for Palestinian self-determination.

PLO Affairs

Palestinian sources in Amman disclosed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Jordan's King Husayn will not take place before mid-February because of the latter's travel abroad, according to Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. A "reliable source" in Cairo cited by AFP affirmed that 'Arafat will lead a Fatah delegation to Egypt soon before the PNC meeting scheduled to start in Algiers on 17 February. DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah told a Sofia press conference reported by BTA that no PNC session will be possible "in the near future."

African Affairs

Libyan Involvement in Chad — GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei issued a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Bardai denying Libyan involvement in the recent commando raid into southern Chad. Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila, however, said a "strong Libyan column" was responsible for the incursion, in which a French plane was shot down and hostages were taken, according to AFP.

French officials in Paris likewise held Libya responsible for the raid and the downing of the plane, Paris radio reported, and French warplanes have arrived in Ndjamena as reinforcements. Nevertheless, the radio deemed it "unlikely" that France will carry out reprisal operations.

The Libyan news agency JANA quoted a French spokesman's comments on the raid and reiterated that "there are no Libyan forces in Chad" and that Libya therefore "refuses to be accused of something it has not committed." The agency asked rhetorically why France, while talking about its international responsibility, "sides with the insurgents against legitimacy in Chad."

Libyan-Moroccan Talks — After wide-ranging talks between Libyan and Moroccan Government ministers in Rabat, the two sides signed a "general cooperation agreement" that provides for the establishment of seven specialized committees aimed at promoting primarily economic and social cooperation, MAP reported. King Hassan II praised this "positive step in consolidating Moroccan-Libyan cooperation" and informed the Libyan delegation that he will reply soon to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's invitation to visit Libya, MAP noted.

Pakistan

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, a coalition of opposition parties, issued a statement condemning the "privileged treatment" granted to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, AFP reported. The statement criticized the government for allowing the Afghans to carry weapons and appropriate land and for affording them preferential tax treatment.

FBIS

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PDPA Politburo Discusses Local Administration

LD262113 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Excerpts] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired yesterday by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. A proposed, detailed plan for the central area of Kabul City was comprehensively considered and reports and suggestions were submitted at the meeting.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo discussed the draft law of local organs of the state power and administration and totally endorsed it. The method of creating local organs of state power was anticipated in the draft law of local organs of the state power and administration.

Assessing the law of local organs of the state power and administration, Babrak Karmal said: The ratification of this law, which will soon take place at an extraordinary meeting of the DRA Revolutionary Council, is an important political event in the life of our people and society and is an important step toward broadening and evolving democracy in the country. Under this law, the broad participation of the masses of the people in the creation of local organs will be achieved.

Babrak Karmal said that after the ratification of the law of local organs of the state power and administration, the organizational and coordination work for democratic and traditional elections toward the foundation of the state local organs will be implemented. With ratification of this law and implementation of the aforementioned election, it will be proved on the national and international level that the party and state are determined to carry out what the revolution and party have promised toward the realization of progressive changes.

The session also discussed and considered a series of other topics concerning party affairs and decisions were made on important national and international issues.

Armed Forces Crush Rebels in Various Provinces

LD261904 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Our heroic Armed Forces, with the cooperation of our noble people, inflict daily blows on the rebel bands — these traitors to the homeland and revolution.

In continuation of this process, a successful operation was launched by our vigilant security forces in Marmol village, Balkh Province— 24 antipersonnel mines, 9 antitank mines, 7 hand grenades, 10 kg of explosive substance, a quantity of ammunition, various types of pistols, and leaflets and propaganda documents linking these criminals with the enemies of the country abroad were seized.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Paktika Province on the continuation of the crushing of counterrevolutionary bands in this province. Recently, as a result of a successful operation carried out by vigilant security forces near (Faqiranow Kalay), 20 of these killers were gunned down and another six arrested.

The correspondent adds that 6 weapons, 12 mortar shells, a number of hand grenades, 8 mines, 21 antipersonnel mines, 5,800 rounds of ammunition, 15 artillery shells, and 15 rocket launcher shells were seized from these criminals. Four gun positions were destroyed.

In another operation launched by our security forces in the (Siam Sang) region, Herat Province, 18 of these killers were gunned down and another 22 of them were injured. Weapons and propaganda leaflets were seized from these enemies of the people's peace and order.

According to another report from Nangarhar Province, an operation carried out by the security forces of this province in the Darreh-ye Nur region, 25 rebels — these enemies of the people — were gunned down and another 42 were injured. A Nangarhar Province security force told the BAKHTAR correspondent that a number of weapons were seized from these robbers and four gun positions were destroyed.

BAKHTAR Report

LD260626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Kabul, Jan 25 BAKHTAR — The security forces of the DRA is [as received] giving telling blows to the dwindling counter-revolutionaries throughout the country.

According to the latest reports, four counter-revolutionaries led by Mohammad Kamal belonging to the Jam'iat-e Islami band were captured in Balkh Province today.

34 terrorists were also crushed in Zareh Sharan District of Paktika and 5 others in Badakhshan Provinces.

The report adds that along with these captures and crushes, large amounts of heavy and light weapons, exposives and documents proving their ties with enemies abroad were seized by the security forces during these operations.

Karachi: Mujahidin Kill 140 in Herat, Qandahar

BK270234 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say Afghan mujahidin killed 140 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed 14 tanks and military vehicles in recent clashes in Herat and Qandahar Provinces. During the attack, 50 Karmal soldiers joined the mujahidin.

Ershad Greets Gandhi on Republic Day

BK260707 Dhaka BSS in English 0635 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 26 BSS — President Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad has expressed the hope in a message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that cooperation between the two countries would promote "peace and stability in the region."

In a Republic Day message, the Bangladesh president also expressed his happiness at the "understanding, friendship and cooperation" existing between the two countries and said the common endeavour would bring mutual benefits to the two peoples.

Briefs

Envoy to Bahamas — Dhaka Jan 25 BSS — Bangladesh has concurrently accredited its high commissioner to Canada, K.M. Shafiullah, as envoy to Bahamas, it was announced here last night. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0605 GMT 25 Jan 84 BK]

Ambassador to Pakistan — Dhaka Jan 27 (BSS) — Bangladesh has appointed career diplomat Abul Ahsan ambassador to Pakistan. Between 1979 and 1980 he served as the country's deputy permanent representative in its mission at the United Nations. He also served as the country's envoy to Poland and Hungary. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0621 GMT 27 Jan 84 BK]

Farooq Abdullah Wins Vote of Confidence

BK271109 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today won a vote of confidence in the state assembly as it opened for the budget session. The motion was moved by the chief minister when the assembly met soon after the governor's addresses to the joint session of the state legislature.

The speaker relaxed the rules required for the fixation of a discussion and placed the motion before the house. It was passed amidst pandemonium in the house. Slogans and counterslogans were exchanged between the ruling National Conference members and the opposition. The entire opposition walked out as the National Conference members voted in favor of the motion.

Our correspondent reports that the budget session of the state legislature began in Jammu with an address by the governor, Mr B.K. Nehru, to a joint session. As the governor rose to deliver the address, the Congress-I legislature party leader, Maulvi Iftikhar Hussein Ansari, started reading from a paper simultaneously. On completion, he, along with other Congress-I members, walked out of the house without listening to the governor's address.

The governor said the country is facing grave challenges as never before. He drew the attention of the house to the prime minister's caution against grave threats from across the border. He said this area has become the target of superpower rivalry and sophisticated weaponry is being dumped in our neighborhood.

Sikh Leader Calls for Setting Clear-Cut Goals

BK261736 Hong Kong AFP in English 1724 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 26 (AFP) — The self-styled secretary general of the so-called National Council of Khalistan (Sikh's homeland) today called for leaders of the Sikhs not to "waste energy" by staging "innocuous agitation" but should set clearcut goals for their demands.

Balbir Singh Sandhu made the remarks in a Khalistan constitution released today at the Golden Temple, the holy Sikh shrine in Punjab, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The opposition Sikhs party, Akali Dal, have been demanding greater political autonomy for their northern state, bordering Pakistan.

Mr. Sandhu said the constitution envisaged Khalistan, comprising whole of Punjab and its neighbouring states — Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjabi speaking areas of Rajasthan. Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, is now administered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's federal government.

PTI quoted Mr. Sandhu as saying that they had nothing to do with Punjabi speaking areas in Pakistan as they had closed that chapter with partition of India in 1947. Their main "fight is against India," he said. Mr. Sandhu said the constitution set Sikh's religious goals and defined type of government, fundamental rights, economic and foreign policies and status of other non-Sikhs in the Khalistan republic. It asserted the supremacy of "Akal Takht" — the highest seat of Sikh religion. He said that he had received a message from the president of Khalistan, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, now living abroad, who would announce his cabinet in the United States.

According to PTI, a group of Sikh youths fired a volley of shots and shouted slogans as Mr. Sandhu pulled out a wad of papers from under the shawl he had wrapped around him. No other details were immediately reported.

Meanwhile, the Akali Dal was likely to call upon the people of the state to deposit their land revenue with the Akal Takht instead of depositing it with the government, a separate PTI despatch from Amritsar, the state capital, said.

The party leaders, who met yesterday and today, are believed to have favoured this action as the next phase of their movement to be announced tomorrow by the party chief Sant Harchand Singh Longowal.

PTI learnt that some party hardliners who had been pressing for a stronger action had expressed their statisfaction over the proposal.

Mr. Longowal told the press that he had completed his discussions with top leaders of the party. The plan for the action, he said, had been given final touches.

Sikh Factions Clash Over Akali Dal Demands

BK271246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Text] In Amritsar, two persons were injured, one of them seriously, in a clash between pro and anti-Longowal groups near the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple management] committee complex. The clash followed the announcement by the Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, to observe a day's bundh [strike] next month in support of the party's demands. The anti-Longowal group consisted of mostly All-India Sikh Students Federation and pro-Bhindrenwale elements. They were shouting slogans against the Akali Dal president. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, some shots were also reported to have been fired in the air.

While commenting on the Akali Dal decision, the Punjab unit of the Bhartiya Janata Party president, Mr Baldev Prakash, said that the Akali leadership has shown wisdom by not precipitating any decision which would have disturbed the communal harmony and peace in the state.

Assam Governor on Situation, Nationals Issue

BK270339 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Text] The governor of Assam and Meghalaya, Mr Prakash Mehrotra, has said that the situation in Assam has considerably improved. In a Republic Day broadcast from the Shillong and

Gauhati stations of All-India Radio, Mr Mehrotra said the government is determined to put down all acts of violence with a strong hand and to bring the lawbreakers to book. Referring to the foreign nationals issue in the state, the governor said that the center has made special efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem. He said the illegal migrants act has been passed and tribunals have been set up to speed up the process of detection and deportation of suspected foreigners.

9,000 Arrested in Karnataka Farmers' Agitation
BK270334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Text] In Karnataka, the number of farmers arrested on the 1st day of the indefinite rail and rasta roko [rail and road block] agitation has gone up to 9,000. The agitation has been peaceful by and large. The call was given by the State Farmers' Association to press its 10-point program. The convener of the action committee, Professor (Manjunda Swami), told our Bangalore correspondent this morning that they are demanding, among other things, appointment of a state-level agricultural prices commission and confirmation of unauthorized cultivation of government land to the landless. He said this will not cause any extra burden to the state government.

Meanwhile, the state industry minister, Mr S.R. Bommai, has appealed to the farmers to withdraw the agitation. He was speaking to newsmen at Hubli yesterday. He reiterated that the state government is prepared for talks with the leaders.

MRD Scores 'Privileged Treatment' of Afghan Refugees

OW261955 Paris AFP in English 1739 GMT 26 Jan 84

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 26 (AFP) — The Pakistani opposition coalition, "Movement for the Restoration of Democracy" (MRD), spoke out today against what it said was the "privileged treatment" granted to the three million Afghan refugees in the country.

The MRD, which last summer began a program of active opposition to the regime of General Mohammed Ziaul Haq, took its first public stand against the refugees and alleged government indulgence of them when it said they carried out various "illegal activities" but were treated with impunity."

After a Central Committee meeting here, the MRD said the refugees were guilty of "gross, indecent, inhuman and illegal behavior" since they seized land and were implicated in murders and drug trafficking.

In a resolution released to the public by MRD Secretary General Malik Mohammed Qasim, the MRD denounced the government's allowing the refugees to carry weapons while martial law forbids Pakistanis from doing this.

"The people are afraid that weapons destined for use in Afghanistan will one day be used against them," Mr. Qasim said.

The MRD said the government was letting the refugees appropriate communal lands in villages in the Northwest Frontier Province, where most of the refugee camps are located.

The ten-party opposition movement also denounced what it said was preferential treatment for Afghan transporters, who are exempt from provincial taxes.

The MRD seems to be trying to exploit politically growing concern among Pakistanis over the number of Afghan refugees and how long they will stay.

Northwest Frontier Province Governor General Fazle Haq said he "regretted" that certain elements were trying to raise the question of relations between the immigrants and the local population. He claimed the two communities got on well together.

But this opinion was not shared by the residents of Peshawar who speak of being "invaded" by the refugees. Local authorities mention problems in the countryside of insufficient water, wood, heating and pasture while the cities are not equipped to handle the growing number of refugees.

Meanwhile, there seemed to be an east-west connotation to the issue, with supporters of the military regime betting that the presence of the Soviet Army on Pakistan's border and three million refugees in the country will guarantee continued diplomatic and financial aid from the non-communist world.

But the opposition has called for dialogue between Islamabad and Kabul on the refugee question and accused General Zia of being the "plaything of the Americans" in a conflict which should be strictly regional.

The opposition, whose agitation campaign failed to sweep the military regime from power, seems prepared to risk alienating international opinion in order to incite the Pakistani people against their government.

This tactic could backfire. The religious parties, which are close to the government, have accused the MRD of being the instrument of Soviet propaganda with their anti-refugee attacks.

Former Baluchistan Governor Set To Leave for U.S.

BK261552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] The federal government, on the recommendation of a medical board, will allow former Baluchistan Governor Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti to go to the United States for medical treatment. A press note issued in Islamabad today said Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti had applied on 30 December for the approval of foreign exchange to meet medical expenses in the United States. In accordance with the relevant regulations, a medical team examined him in Karachi on 18 January and noted that Nawab Bugti was suffering from blood cl[illegible] The board recommended granting him permission to go to the United States for treatment. According to the press note, the necessary foreign exchange was also approved.

AFP: Karachi Nuclear Powerplant Shut Down

BK201559 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Karachi, Jan 26 (AFP) — The Karachi nuclear power plant, the only one in Pakistan, has been closed temporarily, it was reported here today.

No reason was given for the closure of the plant, which produces about 38 megawatts of electricity for Karachi. A spokesman for the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation, which is the main buyer of electricity from the plant, said the company had not received an explanation for the shutdown.

The spokesman added, however, that plant officials had assured the company that the plant would resume functioning in March.

Iraqi Planes Violate Tehran's Airspace

GF261604 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Iraqi planes violated Tehran's air space around 2:00 pm local time breaking the sound barrier, said the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here today.

Alert sirens went off in Tehran few minutes before this Iraqi aerial violation over the city. The command center contacted by IRNA about the reason for the siren alert, said that a number of intruder Iraqi planes broke the sound barrier over Tehran.

It further added that the Iraqi planes were flying at too high an altitude to carry out any militarily effective aerial operations.

TANJUG: Explosion Heard After Tehran Air Raid Alert

LD261338 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1130 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, January 26 (TANJUG) — An air raid warning sounded in Tehran at 13:55 hours local time today, Thursday.

Ten minutes later a loud explosion was heard but no details about the attack are known.

An all-clear signal was given at around 14:20. The signal was also broadcast by Tehran Radio in the middle of a news programme.

No official statement about the attack has been made so far.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,616

LD261736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,616 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday in the northwestern operational zone, the combat forces of Islam opened heavy fire and disrupted enemy infantry and vehicle movement, setting fire to one vehicle lot. Additionally, our forces opened fire on the Sayyid Sadiq Garrison, damaging the installations and fortifications and killing a number of Saddamists. Other enemy losses on the northwestern border fronts include the destruction of one tank, one construction vehicle, one ammunition dump, several trucks carrying servicemen, and four trenches and observation posts.

On the western operational zone, the forces of Islam opened fire on the defensive, tank and artillery positions of the enemy and destroyed several vehicles on the supply axes opposite Qasr-e Shirin and Dasht-e Zahab and in the area opposite Sumar and Mehran.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday in the southern operational zone. As a result of timely firing by our forces, the enemy patrols opposite Kushk and (Talayeh) fled, suffering casualties. In the course of a series of exchanges of fire on the Arvand Rud, four trenches and foxholes and three observation posts of the Iraqi forces were set on fire and destroyed.

Yesterday as a result of the enemy's long-range weapons fire, one house and three shops in Abadan were damaged.

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran also announced: At about 1355 today, an Iraqi aircraft violated the airspace of Tehran; but it was faced with the quick reaction of the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and before managing to carry out any effective measure it was forced to flee. While fleeing, the intruding Iraqi aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Tehran. According to the views of military experts, these types of air aggressions which are carried out from a very high altitude, are devoid of any military value and are only carried out for propaganda purposes.

[Unsigned]

Reportage on Talks With Syrian Delegation

Meeting With Khamene'i

LD261223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] The Syrian deputy prime minister, who is leading an economic delegation to Iran to deliver a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to our country's president, this morning met and had talks with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. During the meeting, also attended by Dr Salim Yasin, Syrian economic minister; Aqazadeh and Abedi-Ja'fari, ministers of state and trade; Mir Salim, chief adviser to the president; and Iranian and Syrian ambassadors, the Syrian deputy prime minister, delivering Hafiz al-Asad's message and expressing hope for an increasing expansion of economic and trade relations between the two countries, said: Visiting Your Excellency is a great honor for me. He added: There are subversive, satanical attempts aimed at encircling Syria, and the pressures against our country are increasing more than ever before. However, in our steadfastness we rely on God, our nation, and our friends.

Mr Khamene'i, expressing thanks for Hafiz al-Asad's message of affection, cooperation, and sympathetic unison, referred to the course of the increasing influence of U.S. policies in the region: We believe that all countries which sense the danger of U.S. domination in the region should seriously hasten to one another's aid and should stand up together.

Expressing regret for the lack of responsibility displayed toward Syria by certain countries claiming Arabism, the president added: We believe that in the confrontation front against the Zionist regime assistance to Syria by those countries believing in Palestine's aspirations should be increased more than ever.

Continuing his speech and emphasizing the increasing cooperation between the progressive governments toward the flanking movements carried out by the United States in the region, Khamene'i stressed: The progressive governments in confronting U.S. plots in the region should strengthen their interrelations.

In conclusion, welcoming the daily increasing expansion and deepening relations and ties between Iran and Syria, the president emphasized the increasing links between the two nations and countries.

Damascus Account

JN261723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran — Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i received a message from President Hafiz al-Asad today when he met with 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs. During this meeting, the two sides made a general review of the political and economic situation in the area and the world; the continuous attempts at hegemony and aggression by imperialism, world Zionism, and Israel; the dangers threatening the region as a result of these attempts; and the means of preparing the necessary circumstances and resources in order to foil all these attempts and to prevent the objectives from being fulfilled. Their viewpoints were identical, and the assessment was one.

President Khamene'i asked Qaddurah to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad for the president's continued good health and success in performing his major tasks. He also highly commended both the Syrian Arab people's continuous struggle for the sake of their national cause and Syria's steadfastness against all pressure attempts by imperialism and Zionism. The Iranian president expressed his confidence that Syria can foil these plots and regain usurped Arab rights.

Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD261824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, Syrian Arab Republic's deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Salim Yasin, Syrian economy and foreign trade minister; Ja'fari and Aqazadeh, ministers of state for commerce executive affairs; and the ambassadors of Syria and Iran today met and conferred with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

In the course of the meeting, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah said: Our forces in Syria are always prepared to face imperialism and Zionism, and in Lebanon we confront the American and Israeli forces, the Multinational Forces, and their internal mercenary supporters such as the Phalangists. The relentless economic and political pressure being brought to bear on the people of Syria on a world scale has never affected and will never affect the morale of the Syrian people. During the Casablanca summit, only Syria and Libya stood against the compromising trend of this so-called Islamic summit, and they particularly opposed the return of Egypt to the Islamic fold.

While strongly criticizing the compromising stance of Saddam, Shah Husayn and 'Arafat, he referred to the pressure being exerted on Syria to deviate it from its path: We understand the pressure being brought to bear on Iran by the enemies of Islam through the imposed war, and we praise your steadfastness in the battle against imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction. The compromisers and mercenaries are arraying their ranks against Iran. We stand side by side with our brothers and Muslim Iranian friends more steadfastly than ever before. Iran and Syria are the hope of all the free and honest people of the world; our enemies intend to extinguish the light of God, but they will never succeed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then spoke on the Zionists' aggression against the Islamic states of Lebanon and Syria. He said: The other Arab countries, those responsible for the war, relinquished their responsibility, and Syria is now the only country shouldering its burden of responsibility. Our opinion is that we should bring about a situation in future whereby the Arabic and Islamic countries would employ their financial, economic, and political possibilities to fight against Zionism. The Islamic Republic of Iran assumes its responsibility in this connection and is determined to carry it through. Therefore, one way we can assist is to stand by Syria, which is now a serious and strong barrier against the Zionist regime. Syria could relinquish its burden of responsibility, the same as the other Arab countries if it so wished, in which case it would not have had to face any difficulties in Lebanon and other places.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Please convey my greetings to Hafiz al-Asad. After our victory in the Iraqi imposed war, we will strive to join hands with Syria and to solve problems of the region with free hands.

GDR Trade Delegation Arrives 26 January

LD261849 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] A 12-man GDR trade and economic delegation, led by that country's foreign trade under secretary, this afternoon arrived in Tehran where it was welcomed by our country's foreign trade under secretary. The delegation will spend a week in Iran and will hold talks with our country's trade and economic officials on expanding trade relations and industrial cooperation.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Visits 21-23 January

LD211346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ghazali arrived in Tehran this morning on an official 3-day visit to Iran. He was welcomed by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati, a number of ministry officials, and the Iranian ambassador in Kuala Lumpur.

On his arrival in Tehran, speaking in a radio and television interview, the Malaysian minister of foreign affairs said that his visit to our country is in response to an invitation from Mr Velayati. He said: [Begin recording in English fading into Persian translation] My delegation and I are happy that this trip will give us an opportunity to have talks with the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields, bilateral relations and international and regional issues. I bring a friendly message from the Malaysian nation and Government to the Iranian people and Government. [end recording]

Meeting With Velayati

LD211948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Malaysian Foreign Minister Ghazali met Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon and exchanged views on bilateral relations, the situation of the world of Islam, and other international issues. In the course of this meeting, the Malaysian minister of foreign affairs said in a speech: Iran is a powerful Islamic country and is the center of attention of the world Muslims because of its ancient culture. Therefore, the feeling of support for Iran has increased among the people of Malaysia. The Malaysian minister of foreign affairs added: Iran and Malaysia have many common interests and these have prepared the grounds for the expansion of relations.

Referring to the recent trip of the economic-political delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Malaysia, he expressed hope for further expansion of relations between the two countries in economic, political, and cultural fields.

In connection with issues of the world of Islam, Mr Ghazali said: Palestine has been under Israeli influence for the past 30 years and the situation of the Muslims under the control of the Israelis is beyond imagination. We also share a common stance concerning Afghanistan.

Our country's minister of foreign affairs also made some remarks in return: The most important common point between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia is Islam, and it was through Iran that Islam was spread to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. He went on: In view of our possibilities, we can have large-scale commercial transactions. It would be very desirable for the Islamic countries to meet their requirements by establishing relations among themselves.

Session With Khamene'i

LD221940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ghazali this morning met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. Foreign Affairs Ministers Velayati, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia, and the Malaysian charge d'affaires in Iran were also present at the meeting. The Malaysian minister of foreign affairs conveyed the greetings of his country's high-ranking officials to the president and expressed his happiness over traveling to Iran.

He said: I consider Iran like my own country and feel very close to it. I hope that with the expansion of the relations between the two countries of Iran and Malaysia, our countries will get closer every day.

Commenting on the Islamic Conference Organization summit in Morocco, the president said: Has this session been used to benefit Muslim nations? I do not see any hopeful signs in this respect. Of course, there will always be speeches and slogans, but what is certain is that the reality for the deprived people of Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and other nations has not changed at all. Of course, if this conference were held in another Muslim country like Malaysia, then we would certainly have participated. In any case, the stance taken by our revolution and our people is to restore the Islamic honor of Muslim countries.

While expressing concern over the presence of superpowers in the Indian Ocean, Mr Khamene'i said: What are the United States, the USSR, France, and Britain doing in the Indian Ocean? Maybe the time has come for the nations of this region and influential countries to demand the region be purged of the presence of superpowers who only have their own interests in mind.

Referring to the membership of Malaysia in the peace commission and stressing the failure of this commission to fulfill its mission, Mr Khamene'i said: Unfortunately, the peace commission is so weak that it has even been unable to force the aggressor, the side which as everyone knows started the war, to stop using chemical weapons to bomb residential towns and nonmilitary targets. The peace commission has shown its weakness by refusing to accept the invitation extended to it by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to come here and inspect the residential regions which have been bombed. Do you think that with so many failures, the peace commission will be able to fulfill such a great responsibility?

The president finally pointed out that in a situation where no one is able to do anything to help the party which has been subjected to aggression, then the wronged party should take it upon itself to take action. In connection with the shah and the United States, our nation used this approach and it will do the same in dealing with Iraq. You should realize that the Iranian nation has found the way to respond to the aggressor, the president said.

Joint Statement

LD231503 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 84

[Text] At the end of the Malaysian foreign minister's trip to Tehran, a joint statement was issued simultaneously in Tehran and Kuala Lumpur today as follows.

At the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Mohamed Ghazali bin Shafie, foreign minister of the brother country Malaysia, made a formal visit to Iran, between 21 and 23 January at the head of a high-ranking delegation. Hajj Abu Bakr bin Ratin Ibrahim, member of Parliament; Hussein Ahmad, member of the Malay Supreme Council of the United National Organization; and a number of Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials accompanied Mr Ghazali in this trip.

During the trip, the Malaysian foreign minister and his entourage were warmly welcomed by Mr Velayati and other Iranian officials. This is a sign of the fraternal relations between the two countries. The Malaysian foreign minister and his entourage visited Behesht-e Zahra to pay homage to the martyrs.

During his stay, Mr Ghazali was received by President Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Prime Minister Musavi. In addition to exchanging views with Mr Velayati, Mr

Ghazali met and conferred with Commerce Minister Abedi-Ja'fari and a number of high-ranking Iranian officials.

Mr Ghazali and Mr Velayati held extensive talks, in agreement and sincerity, regarding mutual relations and international issues. Referring to the close historical, cultural, and religious ties between the two countries and expressing gladness for the present good relations between Iran and Malaysia, the two foreign ministers stressed the necessity for expanding the existing political, economic, commercial, and cultural relations through more contact and exchanges of official delegations.

The two foreign ministers stressed the importance of unity in the Muslim world for an effective struggle against international Zionism and the plots of the superpowers against Islamic and other Third World countries. They asked all the world's Muslim nations to bring unity, stability, and piety to the Muslim world by following Islamic precepts.

The two foreign ministers strongly condemned the superpowers' plots, their accelerating rivalry, and their acts of aggression in various parts of the world.

Reviewing the Middle East situation, the two sides declared their full support for liberating the lands occupied by Zionism; they stressed that the key to the solution of the problem of the region lies with the retrieval of all the usurped lands and the just rights of the Palestinian nation, by way of a fair fight.

Regarding Lebanon, the two sides condemned the continued aggression against and the occupation of that country by the Zionists and called for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Zionist forces and their protectors from that country.

The two sides declared their strong belief in the necessity for maintaining stability and security in the Persian Gulf and strongly condemned any intervention, conspiracy, or presence by foreign forces, under any pretext, in the Persian Gulf, and called it a threat.

Condemning the superpowers' power-seeking and their interference in the internal affairs of other countries — super powers' interference in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Latin America — the two sides called these actions a contradiction in the maintenance of peace and security in the world.

The two sides expressed their strong belief in the role that the Nonaligned Movement can play in safeguarding the interests of the oppressed nations of the world and stressed the importance of member countries following the true precepts and aims of the movement, in order to achieve more unity among member countries as an effective factor in international relations.

The two sides condemned racism and all forms of racial distinction, especially following racially discriminating policies by the racist regime of South Africa and the acts of aggression committed by that regime in the occupation of Namibia, and called for the independence of Namibia.

Regarding the international economic situation, considering the importance of further economic growth and expansion in developing countries, the two sides stressed the necessity for cooperation between these countries in order to achieve complete economic self-sufficiency and release from exploitation and political and economic influence by advanced industrialized countries.

The Malaysian foreign minister expressed his deep gratitude for the warm and sincere welcome that he and his entourage had received during their visit from Mr Velayati, the Government and the nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Ghazali invited Mr Velayati to visit Malaysia. The invitation was gladly accepted.

Soviet Concern Over Tudeh Trial Viewed

GF221530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Undoubtedly, it was not easy for the Soviets to see the treacherous cards of the Tudeh Party exposed one by one. All their dubious and treacherous relations with the Tudeh Party have been exposed without addition or deduction through the open trials that are being carried on television. Local and foreign reporters have been granted the freedom to monitor and cover the details of the trials without any harassment in order to publicize the confessions which, we can say, have changed and will change everybody's view on Soviet friendships, alliances, and aid to nations and liberation movements.

It is not easy for the Soviets to see their dreams in Iran collapse once and for all and without any prior warning.

The Soviet Union cannot stand to see the defendants among Tudeh's most prominent leaders compete to confess the failure and complete exhaustion of the international Marxist theory before the genuine Islamic march which, as we find, is deep-rooted in the depths of the poor and striving ones whom the Tudeh Party has always claimed to defend while it stood unable to offer anything tangible other than spying and plotting against the resources of the deprived Muslim people in Iran and in other countries.

One of the most distinctive signs of the state of puzzlement, concern, and confusion in which the Kremlin leaders are living is this message which they recently sent through their ambassador in Tehran to the Majlis speaker, expressing their concern for this media openness and freedom in exposing and analyzing the proceedings of the Tudeh Party trial. This is what the ambassador claimed during his meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani last Tuesday when he said that the Iranian press continues to attack the Soviet Union.

Although we have no doubts that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's reply to the charges was sufficient and extremely to the point — when he said that if it were not for the inappropriate stands of the Soviets toward the questions of the Iranian people, they would not have opted to reply through the media in this manner so displeasing to the Soviets — what is worth noting at this point is that the

freedom of the press in Iran has become a fundamental matter; a writer is free to publish what he wants within the bounds of what the Islamic constitution allows.

The Soviet ambassador has no right to condemn the Iranian media, nor has any other foreigner, but only the Iranian Muslim people who alone are the owners of the genuine and enforced decision. Furthermore, if the Soviets are so unhappy because of the stand of the Iranian media, all they have to do to improve that stand is to be sincere and practical in expressing their good intentions, a matter that at least means an end to any aggression against the Iranian people instead of being a main party to it.

However, these days, they don't conceal their desire to open a joint front with Iran against imperialism. It is natural that any true, positive steps by the Soviets toward correcting their hostile stand toward Islamic Iran will necessarily receive a positive response from the Iranian media, which must — given this particular state of affairs — reconsider its stand on the relationship between both sides.

Soviet Setbacks in Afghanistan Noted

GF261132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Continuation of Islamic Movement in Afghanistan"]

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, violent clashes between Afghan Muslim combatants, on one hand, and the Soviet occupying forces and the mercenary soldiers of Babrak Karmal, on the other hand, continue in a number of provinces of Afghanistan. On the bases of these reports, clashes are presently taking place between the two sides in the Provinces of Paktia, Qandahar, Farab, Badakhshan, and Ghazni. With regard to loss of life and property in these clashes, the government Kabul radio has not issued any reports so far. However, news sources close to the Afghan mujahidin have stated that they have inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet and Afghan Government forces.

The invading Soviet forces, which have become tired of direct confrontation with the Muslim Afghan combatants, resort to air bombardments of the residential areas of the oppressed Afghan nation in order to cover their own defeats. Last week, after the occupying Soviet forces and the government forces — in spite of being equipped with latest sophisticated arms — could not conquer the Shindand region and had to withdraw from this area after suffering heavy losses, the Soviet Air Force bombarded this region and about 100 defenseless Muslim Afghans were martyred. Further reports state that the Afghan mujahidin continue to kill high-ranking Soviet officers in their revolutionary operations in the cities, and the invading forces have not so far been able to strengthen their puppet government, even in Kabul.

Even now, the Soviet Union considers itself in a cul-de-sac in Afghanistan because even though the Soviet Union with all its highly-equipped force of 100,000 soldiers has started the 5th year of its occupation, during which thousands of them were killed or wounded, it has caused them considerable economic losses. Of course, the Soviet leaders are trying their best to make up their economic losses in Afghanistan by looting and plundering the natural gas deposits of Afghanistan in the north. On the bases of the reports of informed sources, although the Soviet Union had purchased the gas through an agreement with the traitor King Zahir Shah in 1968, the Marxist coup d'etat of 1977 in Afghanistan under the leadership of Mohammad Taraki, a well-known Soviet agent in Afghanistan, a large number of Soviet engineers and experts came to be stationed around Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan. According to the statements of the officials of the puppet regime of Babrak Karmal, the Soviet Union has extracted gas to the tune of 2.67 billion cubic meters from Afghanistan during the last year. It must not remain unsaid that the Soviet Union, against every 1,000 cubic meters of gas, reduces only $100 from the loans which Afghanistan has taken from the Soviet Union, while it sells the Siberian gas at the rate of $180 per 1,000 cubic meters. Although the Karmal regime claims that during the last year only 2.67 billion cubic meters of gas has been exported to the Soviet Union, there is nothing to support this claim because all export posts and relative offices have been stationed that side of the border. This does not allow Afghan sources to have any information about the amount of export of gas to the Soviet Union. In spite of this it seems that the expenditure incurred in maintaining a 100,000-man military force in Afghanistan is more than what the Soviet Union can make through looting and plundering the gas reserves of Afghanistan.

In addition to the difficulties which the Soviet Union has to face in connection with the occupation of Afghanistan in the economic field, it has also created political and military difficulties for the leaders of the Soviet Union. After the 4-year war with the Afghan militant fighters, the Soviet Union has gained nothing by the slaughter and killing of the people of an Islamic country. It has only created intense hatred of the Afghan people for the Soviet Union. This has also given a motive to the Afghan people to start an armed campaign against the forces of the Red Army. Following the defeats suffered by the Soviet Union, a world superpower, against the Afghan Muslims — whose equipment cannot be compared with that of the Red Army divisions, except that they had hearts full of faith in God Almighty and the tenets of the holy Koran — the Kremlin leaders tried to obtain political support from the American imperialism by starting a dialogue for the solution of the Afghanistan problem so that with the usual arrangement of the superpowers in respect of developing countries, they might unite their knot of difficulties in Afghanistan.

After the overt and covert meetings between the American and Soviet authorities, talks on the question of Afghanistan started under the supervision of Diego Cordovez, special representative of the United Nations in Geneva. But after three rounds of talks, this conference had to face defeat. The Islamic Republic of Iran was invited to participate in these conferences, but it declined the offer because representatives of the combatants and the Muslim people of Afghanistan were not represented in those conferences. Our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented its 4-point proposal, which declared that the solution of the problem lay in withdrawal of occupying forces without any conditions, return of the Afghan refugees to their own country, nonintervention of foreign forces, and future of Afghanistan to be determined by the Muslim population of that country.

According to the press reports, Diego Cordovez will resume his efforts next spring to hold a conference to find ways and means to solve the Afghanistan question. It must be recalled that Gromyko and George Shultz, the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States of America, in the course of the nuclear disarmament conference of European countries which was held in Stockholm, Sweden, met privately. Political observers believe that the Afghanistan question was one of the subjects discussed between the foreign ministers of the two superpowers.

The imperialist United States of America, with the support of Western propaganda organizations, is trying to use the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet forces as an excuse to strengthen its military and political bases and to re-equip the reactionary regimes of the Middle East region. With the support of some of its agents in Afghanistan, it is trying to pave the way for the return of Zahir Shah or to put in power anybody else who might provide support for imposing American influence in Afghanistan. But at the same time, it is fighting along with the Soviet Union against the Islamic spirit of the Afghan combatants.

In other words, both the United States of America and the Soviet Union are trying to prevent the growth and strengthening of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan and they make use of their propaganda machines as a most important instrument. The Kremlin politicians have planted spies among the Afghan refugees to commit crimes and indecent acts and to stop world opinion from sympathizing with the oppressed Muslims of Afghanistan and, thus, cover their own crimes. The imperialist news circles try to hide the Islamic aims of the Afghan combatants in their news coverage so that they can introduce the American agents among the refugees as the Muslim mujahidin. But these plots have been neutralized by the vigilance of the Afghan refugees. The Afghan mujahidin have often declared that these propaganda lies will not prevent them from following the path of liberation of the Islamic country of Afghanistan and from rejecting the crimes of the Marxist and capitalists powers and their affiliates.

The Soviet Union has fallen into a complete fix with relation to the Afghanistan question. If the Soviet Union really wants to try to find a way out of this cul-de-sac in the Geneva talks, even if it does not withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, it cannot possibly continue sending new forces to Afghanistan. In view of the continued operations of the Afghan Muslims, a number of Soviet Red Army soldiers are being killed daily and the Soviet Union is compelled to send more forces to Afghanistan to replace them so that it can at least keep its outward show of strength and avoid a complete defeat of its Army in Afghanistan. The Babrak Karmal regime is even now worried about how to resolve this problem and is trying, through force and several other devices, to strengthen it mercenary force. It may be recalled that according to the statements of the Afghan authorities, the forces of the Afghanistan Army, which had in a strength of 100,000 men at the time of the Soviet invasion, have now been reduced to only 35,000 men. Last summer Babrak Karmal, in a meeting with his elements, said that they should exert more effort to increase the number of their soldiers. At the same time, the Kabul regime has introduced the condition that only those who have completed their military service can be admitted to universities. However, in the disturbed conditions prevailing in Afghanistan, it is only in name that the universities are open for admission.

Just as imperialist America and its allies have reached a dead end in face of the resistance and steadfastness of the Lebanese Muslims and are now unable to carry out their disgraceful plots. In this corner of the Islamic lands, the Soviet Red Army has fallen into dreadful whirlpool, and with the Muslim mujahidin gaining more warfare experience, they are in a worse position. However, for the sake of safeguarding their frail powers both the Soviet Union and the United States of America are abstaining from publicly owning up to the defeats of their armies in the invasions of Afghanistan and Lebanon. In any case, it is certain that their roles will not last long in the face of the campaigns of the Muslims and the growth of the noble Islamic and irreconcilable movements.

Afghan Mujahidin Operations Reported

Customs Office Seized

LD222254 Tehran IRNA in English 1923 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] Zahedan, Jan 22, IRNA — In an offensive launched by the Afghan Mojahedin last week, the Tur Gandi customs office of Afghanistan on the Soviet-Afghan border was seized from the aggressors after years of occupation.

Informed sources said that during the offensive launched by the Afghan Mojahedin, 100 soldiers and 2 officers of the Karmal troops surrendered themselves with their armaments to the Afghan Mojahedin.

The [word indistinct] losses on the other side have not been ascertained yet, the sources said.

150 Soldiers Killed

GF241334 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 23 Jan 84

[Text] In an operation against the occupationist Soviet troops and the Kabul regime's mercenary forces in the northwestern sector of Kabul, the revolutionary Afghan Muslims have killed 150 enemy soldiers. A helicopter belonging to the occupationist Soviet troops was downed during the operation. A total of seven tanks and two trucks were destroyed by the mujahidin.

Violent Clashes Reported

GF241600 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 23 Jan 84

[From "Movement of Oppressed Is Bearing Its Fruits" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: Afghanistan has once again been witnessing violent clashes during the past few days between the Muslim fighters and the occupationist Soviet troops and government forces. Incoming reports say that another town in the southeastern sector of Afghanistan has come under the control of the mujahidin as a result of a violent clash between the

mujahidin and the occupationist forces. A total of 12 occupationist Soviet troops were captured by the mujahidin during a clash in the vicinity of Mazar-e Sharif.

Meanwhile, news agencies have reported that in a series of clashes in Kabul between the Muslim fighters and the puppet Babrak Karmal regime's secret servicemen, 20 secret service officials of the mercenary regime have been killed and many others have been seriously wounded. Serious material damage has also been inflicted on the government forces.

A military convoy comprising units of the occupationist Soviet and mercenary regime forces was attacked by the Muslim fighters while traveling to Paktia Province. The convoy suffered heavy loss of life and material damage.

Following the achievements of the Muslim fighters, the aircraft of the occupationist Soviet forces bombarded nearby towns and villages with a view to redeeming their defeats. They stained numerous innocent and defenseless people with blood. It is understood from incoming reports that the clash in Orgun, which is in eastern Afghanistan, is still continuing and Muslim revolutionaries have placed Orgun under their control.

It has become apparent from the the continuing resistance of the Muslim fighters that the Islamic movement of the Muslim people of Afghanistan has entered a new stage and the aggression of Soviet imperialism is in a hopeless situation.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Attack Security Building

GF260407 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries in Baghdad launched a rocket attack on one of the buildings of the Public Security Directorate of the regime ruling in Iraq and inflicted heavy damages. On 27 November, in a suicidal operation using a booby-trapped car carrying 230 kg of explosives, the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries blew up the central building of the Public Security Directorate. At least 100 of the Saddam regime's security elements were killed.

Imports From Gulf Countries Approved

GF251158 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 25 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] There are chances of windfall revival in trade for merchants in Dubayy who had given up hope of any sustained re-exports to Iran.

Following representations from the UAE's Iranian community, the Commerce Ministry in Tehran has decided to allow the import of 70 different items, up to a total value at one million riyals (Dh 50,000). The ministry had earlier cut down the list of permissible imports to six, all of it agricultural and reconstruction equipment, dealing a major blow to trade in Dubai. The revised list, which is expected to be formally communicated to Iranian missions in the Gulf in a few weeks, includes motorcycles, automobile tyres, a wide range of spare parts, paints, electronic and electrical items, household goods, sewing machines and textiles.

Luxury items are not on the list, which excludes silk clothing and video cassette recorders as well. All the six items earlier exempted continue to find a place in the revised list, but the emphasis is mainly on items required for reconstruction work in Iran.

Also covered are goods which are not manufactured in Iran in sufficient quantities to meet domestic demand. In all, 20 items are understood to be heavy equipment, including machinery and pick-up. Duty will be charged on these goods at concessional rates. To be eligible for facilities under this scheme, an Iranian should have stayed abroad for at least six months at a stretch, or for eight months in a calendar year. Import will be permitted once a year, but the period for calculating residence abroad will be backdated to 1979, the year of the Islamic revolution.

Iranian sources said there were many Iranians who had not traveled to Iran since the revolution, and they will now be able to take in goods worth four million riyals (Dh 200,000). The scheme is applicable only to Iranians living in the Gulf.

Hojjat ol-Eslam (Borghe'i), Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative in the UAE who took up the case of non-resident Iranians with the Commerce Ministry, is understood to have told the authorities that the six items permitted earlier were too expensive for Iranian laborers here to purchase. The new list of 70 specific items is smaller than the previous one of 90 divided into 46 categories, but is still considered in business circles to be sufficient to generate a large turnover in the local market.

It is understood that the UAE-Iran shipping service, which was to start on January 16, will now begin operating only after the new list is formally notified to Iranian missions in the Gulf. The service hopes to lure a large chunk of business provided by non-resident Iranians under this scheme. So far, the bulk of cargo sent by them was being carried on dhows from Dubai's creek.

The Iranian authorities have also decided to allow its government officials abroad to take back petrol-driven automobiles of up to four cylinders valued at not more than $6,000. The scheme will apply to government officials serving the world over, but they can take an automobile only once in their lifetime.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that the baggage allowance of 50,000 riyals (Dh 2,500) for Iranians going home will be entirely duty-free. In addition, there will be no minimum period of stay abroad mandatory for them to take advantage of this facility.

Northern 'Listening Devices' Reactivated

GF230506 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] All of the antiaircraft [as heard] and listening devices that were set up by the United States in northern Iran during the former regime have been reactivated.

According to our correspondent, a number of sophisticated listening devices and radar for monitoring the Soviet forces air and naval traffic were set up on heights overlooking the Caspian Sea by the Americans in 1971. These instruments were in turn operated by U.S. technicians. After their departure from Iran, most of the devices and the sophisticated radar equipment stopped working. Hashemi-Rafsanjani recently claimed that the instruments were reactivated by Iranian experts and were being used. However, our correspondent reports that Japanese experts familiar with these systems were given the responsibility by the United States to reactivate the monitoring system.